

## **“Old Ironsides” Sailors Sail Friendship of Salem**

Story by Seaman Apprentice Shannon S. Heavin, USS Constitution Public Affairs

SALEM, Mass. -- USS Constitution Sailors completed their final evolution of sail training on board the Friendship of Salem, July 12-14.

Sailors sailed the Friendship from Salem to Boston, Monday; in Boston Harbor, Tuesday; and returned to Salem, Wednesday.

“Their training helped immensely, and it showed,” said Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Anthony Costa, Constitution. “This sail training gives them a platform to succeed once the USS Constitution is out of restoration. They're a lot more knowledgeable, and I am proud of what a team they have become.”

The Friendship of Salem is a reconstruction of a 171-foot three-masted Salem East Indiaman built in 1797, a square-rigged ship similar to Constitution.

For the last nine weeks while in port, Friendship crew members have taught Old Ironsides” Sailors how to furl and unfurl sails, man the rigging, climb the masts and maintain safety. By sailing the Friendship, it tests Sailors’ newly acquired skills at sea.

“The Navy Sailors' progression has been incredible,” said Stuart Gralnik, Friendship of Salem mizzen mast captain. “From having no idea where the lines led to, to knowing all the pin rails, I am impressed. The Friendship's smaller frame created an easier training foundation. Also the self-confidence going aloft definitely improved, resulting in more determination from the Sailors.”

This training was ultimately designed to teach Sailors how to sail Constitution. Due to renovations currently taking place on board Constitution, Sailors are unable to use her for sail training. The ship is in a restoration period designed to restore her to the 1812 configuration.

Sailors will possibly sail Constitution under her own power for the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

“After this load of training, I feel without a doubt ready to conquer any sailing challenge, whether it’s climbing the royal yard to hauling the spanker in rough winds, it’s no problem,” said Airman Apprentice Michael Moore, Constitution.

Constitution is located in the Charlestown Navy Yard of Boston Harbor. She is the world’s oldest commissioned warship afloat and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors a year. For more information on Constitution, visit [www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution](http://www.history.navy.mil/ussconstitution) or join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial](https://www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial).